Mr. John Masland
5530 Eastbourne Dr.
Springfield, Va 22151

8/13/92

Dear John,

Thanks for telling me about the so-called "Special Report" on the JFK assassination in the 8/17 U.S.News and World Report. I got it last evening, read it once, marking it with a highlighter and a bit early even for my early starts wrote Mel Elfin, copy enclosed. After I returned from my walking I tore the pages out and skimmed the rest of the magazine. Not much to it for $2.50+.

I doubt that I'll get even an indignant response from Elfin. Or anyone else, including the authors who I have trouble believing were not aware of the legitimacy of some of the criticism I made while they were writing that dreadful, lying sycophancy.

Can you believe that mature men with any common sense at all could not realize that it is not relevant to the actualities to say that a bullet is slowed down in passing through a substitution for JFK's neck and for Connally's chest, each separately, without any reported substitution for Connally's wrist, and does not indicate that one bullet could transit all that tissue but that if it did, that does not mean it had the power left to tour several inches of his thigh? Should not anyone with any common sense at all have wondered why there were these two separate tests and none to show that what is attributed to that bullet was possible?

I did not mention this or so many other points so incompetent and dishonestly dealt with and did not send him a copy of the shirt-collar picture because having done this they are not about to suddenly get honest and I'd rather reserve the public use of that picture for where it may do some good.

Interesting if not provocative that this unthinking, irrational approach is that of the May JAMA: the Warren Report was right because it says it was right and for no other reason, none being needed.

On JAMA, my draft of the book, Twenty-Eight Years of Silence, has been considerably slowed by the instruction of my doctor at the Johns Hopkins research campus not to go to sleep before 10 and not to take naps until I see him after a month, the month ending the 26th. That is not getting me any more sleep and often as last night, it yields less. But I do have more than half of it drafted. Wrone says it is powerful and at the same time notes he is not impartial. (I'm not to think or read on the subject from suppertime on, too.)

I look forward to hearing what you learn about Operation Strongback or Strong Back, it appearing both ways in the transcripts of testimony.

Your best,

Harold